

Congresswoman Betty McCollum
2010 Census Open House Celebration Event

Thank you for inviting me to join you today.
It's a pleasure to be here.

I am pleased to be joined by Mayor Chris Coleman and I want to thank him for his commitment to ensuring the 2010 Census a success.

Please let me also acknowledge the fine public service and dedication of our Census Bureau's staff from Kansas City:

- Regional Director Dennis Johnson
- Deputy Regional Director Sydnee Chattin-Reynolds
- And the staff from MN State Demographer Center.

For the 2010 Census to be a success it will require all of us to do the hard work of making sure that every household, every family, and every person living in our communities are counted. Minnesota cannot afford to miss anyone because in our state everyone counts. Reaching out and working hard to ensure that our communities of color are fully counted is not only important to our American Indian, African American, Asian American, and Latino communities – it is critical to our entire state.

We need to specially emphasis reaching out to our communities of color because they are too often undercounted for reasons such as language and cultural barriers or fear and suspicion of the authorities.

We need to assure people that the information gathered is confidential and will not be used in any way that could negatively impact any individual or family.

The census takes place every 10 years as mandated by our Constitution, found in Article 1, Section 2.

The census data will be used to reapportion political representation in Congress and the Minnesota Legislature.

And, the census helps determine allocation of federal formula funding to states and local communities.

Major federal funding to State and Local Governments includes funds for:

- health and human services,
- education programs,
- agriculture,
- housing and urban development,
- and, transportation.

Each year,
the Washington allocates approximately \$300 billion to states and local communities based on

demographic figures.

That means the 2010 census will help direct as much as \$3 trillion over the next ten years.

For Minnesota to get our fair share of federal funds, we need to get our count right!

Since the 2000 Census,
our country has gone through so many challenges and changes.

We experienced the terror of 9/11,
the catastrophic hurricane Katrina in 2005,
and we are now engaging in two wars, in which more than a million Americans have served our country.

Today, our country is facing a serious financial crisis with millions of homes in foreclosures, an ever growing number of unemployed Americans, and the prospect of a long road to economic recovery.

The impacts and consequences of all of these events will be measured by the Census.

The census data will be used to help plan for future public transportation such as roads, bridges, local infrastructures, schools, hospitals, housing, and economic development.

Businesses will use the census data to reinvest in our economy.

Local communities and the non-profit sector will use the census data to determine the need for social services.

But, the data that is generated from the 2010 Census is only as good as the count.

And an accurate count will mean coordination, hard work, and the commitment of national, state, and local leaders to provide the support to the teams on the ground.

I look forward to working with you in the months ahead to ensure that the 2010 Census is a success.

Please do not hesitate to use my office as a resource to help you move forward on this.